Amendments to the Claims:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A microphone comprising:

a diaphragm which has a first diaphragm surface which is oriented towards a sound source and on which sound waves impinge and a second diaphragm surface which is at least partly acoustically separated from the first diaphragm surface, and which faces away from the sound source;

at least one, ~~slit-shaped,~~ slot-shaped sound inlet, through which sound waves can go to the second diaphragm surface and which forms substantially an acoustic inductance so that at least a part of the sound waves to be picked up is passed with a delay to the second diaphragm surface; and

at least one damping element;

said sound inlet having an acoustic resistance which is less than the acoustic resistance of the damping element, wherein the sound waves to be picked up first pass through said at least one ~~slit-shaped~~ slot-shaped sound inlet before reaching said at least one damping element,

wherein the diaphragm is connected to a diaphragm fixing portion,

wherein the diaphragm fixing portion has an orifice which leads from a rear side of the microphone which faces away from a sound source to the second diaphragm surface and which is substantially closed by a sealing element, the slot-shaped sound inlet being formed between the sealing element and the diaphragm fixing portion.

23. (Original) The microphone as set forth in claim 22, wherein the damping element is formed by a sound passage which is provided with acoustic damping material and which connects a cavity to the volume delimited by the second diaphragm surface.

24. (Original) The microphone as set forth in claim 22, wherein the sound inlet is of a substantially rectangular cross section.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The microphone as set forth in claim 22 ~~26~~, wherein the sound inlet comprises a diaphragm fixing portion which serves to carry the diaphragm.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The microphone as set forth in claim 22 ~~30~~, wherein the sealing element comprises a porous material.

32. (Currently Amended) The microphone as set forth in claim 22 ~~30~~, wherein the porous material is a sintered material.

33. (Currently Amended) The microphone as set forth in claim 22 ~~30~~, wherein the cross section of the slit-shaped sound inlet is substantially formed by a recess in the diaphragm fixing portion, the length of the sound inlet being substantially predetermined by the thickness of the sealing element.

34. (Currently Amended) The microphone as set forth in claim 22 ~~30~~, wherein the sealing element is substantially annular.

35. (Original) The microphone as set forth in claim 34, wherein the diaphragm fixing portion has an annular groove in which the sealing element is arranged.

36. (Previously Presented) The microphone as set forth in claim 34, wherein the cross section of the slit-shaped sound inlet is predetermined by the difference in size between the inside diameter of the diaphragm fixing portion and the outside diameter of the sealing element.

37. (Currently Amended) The microphone as set forth in claim 22 ~~30~~, wherein the sealing element is in one piece with the closure element.

38. (Currently Amended) A microphone comprising:

a diaphragm which has a first diaphragm surface which is oriented towards a sound source and on which sound waves impinge and a second diaphragm surface which is at least partly acoustically separated from the first diaphragm surface, and which faces away from the sound source;

at least one, slot shaped sound inlet through which sound waves can go to the second diaphragm surface and which forms substantially an acoustic inductance so that least a part of the sound waves to be picked up is passed with a delay to the second diaphragm surface; and

at least one damping element;

said sound inlet having an acoustic resistance which is less than the acoustic resistance of the damping element, wherein the sound waves to be picked up first pass through said at least one slot-shaped sound inlet before reaching said at least one damping element,

wherein the diaphragm is connected to a diaphragm fixing portion,

~~The microphone as set forth in claim 28,~~ wherein the diaphragm fixing portion substantially encloses the second diaphragm surface and the sound inlet is formed between a holding portion on the diaphragm and the diaphragm fixing portion,

wherein the holding portion is a diaphragm ring connected to the diaphragm, and, the slot-shaped sound inlet is formed substantially by recesses in the diaphragm ring.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Original) The microphone as set forth in claim 28, wherein a casing portion which is connected to the diaphragm fixing portion and which substantially encloses the second diaphragm surface, the sound inlet being formed between the diaphragm fixing portion and the casing portion.